

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 12685

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: PEKING JOURNAL HITS LIN PIAO STRESS ON GUIDED MISSILES

SUMMARY. A RECENT PEKING JOURNAL ARTICLE HAS CRITICIZED LIN PIAO'S OPPOSITION TO MAO BY CHARGING THAT LIN PIAO ADVOCATED GUIDED MISSILES AND ADVANCED WEAPONRY OVER AND AGAINST MAO'S "OUTMODED" RELIANCE ON PEOPLE'S WAR. ARTICLE ADDITIONALLY CHARGED THAT LIN VAINLY SOUGHT TO "MOVE TROOPS AGAINST THE PARTY". THESE NEW FORMULATIONS IN THE CRITICISM OF LIN SUGGEST THAT THE APPORTIONMENT OF MILITARY BUDGET AND THE POLITICAL ROLE OF THE ARMY MAY BE VERY MUCH ISSUES OF CURRENT CONTROVERSY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE LEAD ARTICLE OF THE OCTOBER 20 ISSUE OF THE PEKING UNIVERSITY JOURNAL (A PUBLICATION NOT MEANT TO CIRCULATE OUTSIDE THE PRC) ATTACKS LIN PIAO IN TERMS WHICH, LIKE THE 13 NOVEMBER PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE (HONG KONG 12550) APPEARS TO BREAK NEW GROUND IN THE LONG DRAWN OUT ANTI-LIN CAMPAIGN. (INTERESTINGLY
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ITS AUTHOR, LIANG HSIAO, ALSO CONTRIBUTED AN HISTORICAL ARTICLE

TO THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF RED FLAG). THE PEKING UNIVERSITY JOURNAL ARTICLE REVIEWS THE CURRENT POLICY WHICH PRESCRIBES THE ARMY'S FUNDAMENTIAL SUBORDINATION TO THE PARTY AS EVOLVED SINCE 1929; IT CHARGES THAT LIN ALWAYS OPPOSED THIS POLICY WHICH EVERYWHERE GIVING LIP SERVICE TO IT. LIN IS SAID TO HAVE OBSCURED AND DODGED THE REAL NATURE OF THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE PARTY AND ARMY AND HAD ACTUALLY INHERITED THE KAO KANG THEORY THAT THE PARTY WAS CREATED BY THE ARMY, THAT THE CCP WAS AN "ARMY PARTY" AND THAT THE ARMY WAS "THE CENTER OF THE CENTER". HE IS SAID TO HAVE COUNSELOED SUBORDINATES TO DISREGARD DIRECTIVES FROM THE CENTER AND TO IGNORE REPORTING TO THE CENTER BECAUSE IT ONLY MEANT RESTRICTIONS THAT STIFLED INITIATIVES.

2. AND, IN THE CONTEXT OF DESCRIVING LIN'S EFFORTS TO USURP POWER IN THE PARTY, THE ARTICLE SAYS LIN WAS DAYDREAMING WHEN HE "ATTEMPTED TO USURP MILITARY POWER AND MOVE TROOPS AGAINST THE PARTY". HE IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE OPTED FOR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT ON A LARGE SCALE, MAINTAINING THAT RELIANCE SHOULD BE PLACED ON NEW WEAPONS, ATOM BOMBS AND GUIDED MISSILES, NOT INFANTRY; LIKE KHRUSHCHEV, LIN ALLEGEDLY DISMISSED THE MILITIA AS USELESS; ARMY MEN WERE SIMPLY TO SERVE AS "NEW FLESH IMPLEMENTS" MAO'S EMPHASIS ON PEOPLE'S WAR.

3. COMMENT. WE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN REFERENCES TO LIN HAVING BEEN AN ARDENT ADVOCATE OF GUIDED MISSILES DEVELOPMENT NOR TO HIS "MOVING TROOPS AGAINST THE PARTY". MORE COMMONLY, LIN HAS BEEN TRARRED AS A SOVIET COLLABORATOR WHO SOUGHT TO BE "UNDER THE SOVIET NUCLEAR UMBRELLA", IMPLYING THAT RAPPROACHMENT WITH MOSCOW MIGHT OBIATE THE NEED FOR AN INDEPENDENT PRC MISSILE PROGRAM. PRESUMING THE PRIME TARGET FOR PRC GUIDED MISSILE WEAPONRY WOULD BE THE USSR, THIS NEW CHARGE, THAT LIN ADVOATED GUIDED MISSILES, DOES NOT MESH EASILY WITH BROAD CHARGES OF HIS PRO-SOVIET LEANINGS. THE CURRENT EFFECT OF THIS TYPE OF CRITICISM, HOWEVER, COULD BE TO PUT ADVOCATES OF THE PRC MISSILE PROGRAM ON THE DEFESNIVE VIS-A-VIS THOSE WHO WOULD PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND THOSE WHO WOULD ROLL BACK THE OVERALL MILITARY BUDGET. THE ARTICLE'S TREATMENT OF STRATEGIC WEAPONRY VS. CONVENTIONAL FORCES ACCORDS CLOSELY WITH VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING'S RECENT REMARKS ON THE SAME SUBJECT (PEKING 1892) AND MAY WELL REFLECT

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DIFFERENCES OVER HOW DEFENSE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS ARE TO BE MADE. THE REFERENCE TO LIN'S EFFORT TO MOVE TROOPS AGAINST THE PARTY IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IN THE CONTECT OF THE CURRENT MEDIA STRESS ON THE PRIMACY OF PARTY LEADERSHIP OVER THE MILITARY (HONG KONG 12550). ALTHOUGH THE ARTICLE MAKES CLEAR THAT LIN FAILED IN HIS MOVE, THE IMPLICATION THAT TROOPS WERE TO BE MOVED AGAINST THE PARTY, TOGETHER WITH PREVIOUS CHARGES THAT KWANGTUNG WAS TO SERVE AS LIN'S BASE AREA AGAINST THE CENTER, DRAMATIZE

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CURRENT EMPHASIS ON PARTY CONTROL OVER
THE ARMY NATIONWIDE.
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